

FORD, ELIJAH

Graduated from Union College 1828 with an A.B. Degree

The following information regarding Elijah Ford was taken from Union College Student Records, First Term 1827-1828 to Second Term, 1828-1829, in which he is listed as No. 30:

Academic Year 1827-1828 - Senior Year

	<u>First Term</u> Ending December	<u>Second Term</u> Ending April	<u>Third Term</u> Ending July
Attendance	100%	-	-
Conduct	100	-	-
Blair	80	-	-
Geometry	95	-	-
Natural History	95	-	-

CLASS OF 1828

ELIJAH FORD

A graduate of Union College, settled in Buffalo in 1828, and studied law in the office of White and Sherwood. After his admission to the bar he took a prominent position at the bar, particularly as a counselor and office lawyer. He held the office of Master in Chancery where he acquired a reputation for fairness and integrity. Among the large trusts that came to him for settlement was the estate of Samuel De Veaux. Mr. Ford represented Erie County in the Assembly in 1850, and in 1859 received the nomination of the Hard Shell Democrats for Lieutenant-Governor but was defeated.

FROM Descriptive History of Erie County Vol. 1 p. 702
Truman C. White
The Boston History Co.
1898.

ELIJAH FORD, 1828, of Austerlitz, N.Y., was a member of the Philomathean Society.
Philomathean Catalogue 1830 (Died 1879)

25 Elijah Ford, B.A., '28; F.B.K. Born, Austerlitz, N. Y., April 13, 1805. Prepared at Stockbridge, Mass., and Kinderhook, N. Y. Union College, 1827-'28; law student, Buffalo, N. Y., 1828-'31. Lawyer, Buffalo, 1831-'79. Member New York State Assembly, 1850. Manager estates of De Veaux Military Academy, Suspension Bridge, N. Y., 1853-'71. Supervisor public works. Died, Buffalo, N. Y., March 10, 1879.

Kappa Alpha cat. 1941

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Our County and Its People
Truman C. White
Boston History Co. 1898.

vol. 1 p. 702

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Austerlitz, N. Y. Student, Union College, 1827-'28; law student, Buffalo, N. Y., 1828-'31. Lawyer, Buffalo, 1831-'79. Member New York State Assembly, 1850. Manager estates of De Veaux Military Academy, Suspension Bridge, N. Y., 1853-'71. Supervisor public works.

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From: Kappa Alpha in Union College
1825-1913

ELIJAH FORD

was born in Austerlitz, Columbia county, N. Y., April 13th, 1805. He worked on his father's farm until nineteen, taught for two winters and then determined on a collegiate course and a profession. He was prepared for college at Stockbridge, Mass., and at Kinderhook, N. Y., teaching meanwhile at Spencer-town. He pursued the course at Union under many difficulties and was graduated in 1828. He was a Kappa Alpha. Recovering from sickness brought on by overwork in college, he went west and began law studies in the village of Buffalo with \$11 for capital; was admitted attorney in 1831 and counsellor in 1834. He was Master in Chancery till 1841; Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means in the Assembly of 1850; Attorney for the N. Y. Central Railroad for several years. He ran unsuccessfully for the Mayoralty of Buffalo in 1848 and for the office of Lieutenant-governor in 1854. He was a strong Democrat. He was actively interested in the construction of the Niagara Suspension Bridge; also, for 18 years, he managed the finances of the DeVeaux estate in the interest of DeVeaux college, supervising the erection of its building. He lost his wife in 1866. He was baptized in the Episcopal church in his 36th year, was a communicant and vestryman. After 1857, till his decease, he was somewhat of an invalid; and he died peacefully, after much suffering at Buffalo, March 10th, 1879, leaving two sons and two daughters. The Bar of Erie County passed highly honorary resolutions on his character.

We have before alluded to the frequent use made by the democratic papers in the eastern part of the State, of the name of Mr. Ford, the member from the Second Assembly District of this county, in connexion with the honorable and responsible office of Speaker of the next House of Assembly.

Of the ample qualifications of Mr. Ford for the station, we have also spoken, although in this we have been anticipated by our eastern friends and even by the Daily Press of our city, of the opposite school of politics. In fact Mr. Ford needed no other endorsement than that which the people gave him; for his vote was more flattering perhaps than any ever before given to a candidate of the democratic party in Western New York. Certainly in Erie county the majority of 385 which he obtained in his own ward over a strong candidate, the present member from the Second District, is conclusive evidence of the high estimation in which he is held at home. It is also a matter of note that he is the first democrat to be sent to the Legislature from our county since the election of Gen. Barker in 1835. It should not be forgotten either, that it is through his success alone, that the party can claim a majority in the Assembly. These circumstances give to his position both novelty and distinction. We are but answering the expectations of our friends throughout the State, in pursuing his career, briefly, especially as he has never been an aspirant to public stations or an incumbent of any, except in our own city.

Mr. Ford is a native of Columbia county in this State--having been born at Green River in 1805. His father was a respectable, fore handed farmer, with whom he resided and aided to cultivate the farm until twenty years of age, during which time, by self exertions he prepared himself for College--entering "Union" in 1835, and graduating with honor in '28. He is a lineal descendant (grandson) of that distinguished democrat of New England, Elder John Leland of Cheshire, Mass., who presented the famous mammoth cheese to Thomas Jefferson. After ~~spending~~ graduating, Mr. Ford came directly to this city and read law in the office of White & Sherwood. He was admitted to the profession in '31 and has continued to practice here since. He has been twice an Alderman of the city and Supervisor of the Fourth Ward, and was the candidate of his party for Mayor last spring. The record of his life is that of any unpretending republican citizen. Politically, he has always been an unswerving democrat--anxious for the harmony and success of the party and deeply deploring the unfortunate divisions that spring up in it. His counsel at the present time will be of the greatest service to it at the Capital.

If Mr. Ford should be made the candidate for Speaker of Assembly, it will afford the highest gratification to the democrats of Western New York. For more than twenty years, some of the best talent in the State and truest men in the ranks of the whole party, have been shut out from Legislative Halls, by the overwhelming whig majorities of the old Eighth--"the infected district." A better state of things and more encouraging prospects dawn upon us since the adoption of the single District System. A recognition of the long services and sufferings of our Democracy, is both opportune and appropriate at the hands of our representatives in the new Legislature, and cannot fail to produce the very best results. (Buffalo Daily Courier).

Daily Albany Argus
Dec. 22, 1849.

Austerlitz and Green River are the same place. The former is a small town, back of Hudson, N.Y., on the Green River.

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Mr. Ford is a native of Columbia County in this State, - having been born at Green River in 1805. His father was a farmer. He is a lineal descendant (grandson) of that distinguished democrat of New England, Elder John Seland of Cheshire, Mass., who presented the famous mammoth cheese to Hon. Jefferson.

From the Daily Albany Argus.

Dec. 22, 1849.

ELIJAH FORD

Received a classical education at Union College and settled in Buffalo in 1828, where he entered the law office of White and Sherwood, and in due time was admitted to the bar. Mr. Ford was an office lawyer and counselor, rather than an advocate, and as a Master in Chancery acquired extended reputation, for his fair and equitable disposition of the important matters referred to him by the Court of Chancery. The settlement and management of the estate of Hon. Samuel DeVeaux was entrusted almost entirely to him for eighteen years, and the college near the Suspension Bridge was built under his supervision. Mr. Ford held many positions of trust and was somewhat distinguished in public life, having represented Erie County in the Assembly in 1850, in which body he was the chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means. In 1859 he was the candidate of the Hard-Shell brand of Democratic party for Lieutenant-Governor, but was defeated. Nothing could have been more absolutely honest than his busy and useful life, through all of which his manly virtues and intellectual attainments were a benefit to society. Mr. Ford was not a learned man, not a great lawyer, nor had he the gift of eloquence, but he was strictly a business lawyer, studious, thorough and conscientious, a wise, impartial and just arbitrator of the affairs of men, and an exemplary and honored member of the community.

FROM History of the City of Buffalo and Erie Co. p. 464; Vol. 2
H. Perry Smith
D. Mason & Co.
Syracuse 1884

1828 ELIJAH FORD:

Candidate for Lieutenant Governor of New York State on the "Hards" ticket with Greene C. Bronson in 1854.

Political Hist. of The State of New York.
p. 203

DeAlva Standwood Alexander
Henry Holt & Company
New York 1906

Elijah Ford A.B. 1828

Elijah Ford

1828
17. B.